

**Preventing Sexual Violence in Indiana: What We Have; What We Need**  
**Developing a Sexual Violence Primary Prevention Plan for Indiana**

**A Socio-Ecological Model to Assess Communities on  
Sexual Violence Prevention**

**Local Qualitative Input**

**Facilitated Cooperatively With**  
**Local Health Departments**  
***PeopleWork Associates***  
**Indiana Department of Health**  
**Office of Women's Health**

**October, 2008**

**TO:** Representative(s) of Local Health Department

**FR:** Pam Robbins and Juanita Russell, ***PeopleWork Associates L.L.C.***

Abigail Kelly, Rape Prevention and Education Grant Coordinator

Office of Women's Health, Indiana State Department of Health

**RE:** Conducting a Local Assessment

As leaders and citizens of your community, your effort is a critical component to the success of developing Indiana's Sexual Violence Primary Prevention Plan to eliminate the epidemic of sexual violence. Your participation serves a number of functions that will benefit you, your LHD and your county and community.

Effectively documenting input at the county/community level provides the State Department of Health's Sexual Violence Primary Prevention Council with helpful information for developing the state sexual violence primary prevention plan so it will be practical and assist in building the capacity for healthier families and communities. Additionally this work creates and/or strengthens needed local-state collaborations providing ongoing conversations and opportunities with LHD's, local coalitions, local stakeholders and state entities working together to implement the state plan and support local plans.

Primary prevention of sexual violence means taking steps to stop sexual violence before it happens by supporting positive beliefs and behaviors about healthy relationships and gender equality.

To assist us in this effort, we are asking you to:

1. Conduct the input survey within your community
2. Invite and bring a team of 3-5 (more are welcome) community stakeholders to a regional roundtable meeting
3. Bring your survey results to one of the regional meetings or mail results to ***PeopleWork Associates***, 88 Northern Hills Drive, Bedford, Indiana 47421 or email to [nita.russll@comcast.net](mailto:nita.russll@comcast.net).

In this packet, you will find a template "Community Stakeholders to Survey and Invite to Roundtable Meetings". This list will be helpful as you identify target groups from which to solicit input.

As you look at this template, you are probably concerned with the numbers of suggested people to contact. We hope you can be as inclusive as possible however, we recognize that time and resources are limited. . Our recommendation is to invite at least two representatives from each category to participate in the survey. Invite those who participate in the survey to attend the regional roundtable.

Know that we are available to answer any of your questions.

The objective of this survey is to collect thoughts, data, and perceptions from a cross section of your community. It will be used in conjunction with quantitative data to write a report which will be the basis of the Indiana Sexual Violence Primary Prevention Plan. You will find it a useful snapshot of perceptions of what is occurring within your community in order to strengthen local prevention efforts

**Initial County/Community Survey:  
Based on a Socio-Ecological Model to Assess  
Sexual Violence Prevention**

*Directions: As you complete the assessment, remember there are no right or wrong answers, just tell us what you think and if you have supporting evidence and examples available list them as well. Feel free to use additional pages if necessary. Please write, print (or type) so answers may be easily read.*

**Societal/Cultural:** Looks at the broad societal factors that could create a climate in which violence is encouraged or inhibited. These factors include social and cultural norms and gender equity or inequity. Other factors include health and economic status of a population, educational attainment, social policies, and pop culture influences.

As you think about today's society, what existing risk factors do you think contribute to sexual violence?

Give examples that support your thoughts.

What existing protective factors do you think help to prevent sexual violence?

Give examples that support your thoughts.

In regard to societal factors as defined above, what strategies could be developed to reduce and eliminate sexual violence?

Give examples that support your thoughts.

**Community:** This level explores settings such as schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, other institutions, and public spaces in which social relationships occur and seeks to identify the characteristics of these settings that are associated with becoming victims or perpetrators of violence.

As you think about your community and the various segments of your community, what existing risk factors do you think contribute to sexual violence?

Give examples that support your thoughts.

What existing protective factors do you think help to prevent sexual violence?

Give examples that support your thoughts.

In regard to community-level factors as described above, what strategies could be developed to reduce and eliminate sexual violence?

Give examples that support your thoughts.

**Relationships:** This level includes risk factors and/or protective factors regarding interpersonal relations with peers, intimate partners, and family members. A person's closest social circles—peers, friends, partners and family members— influences behavior and contribute to individual's range of experience.

As you think about relationships, what existing risk factors do you think contribute to sexual violence?

Give examples that support your thoughts.

What existing protective factors do you think help to prevent sexual violence?

Give examples that support your thoughts.

In regard to relationship-level factors as described above, what strategies could be developed to reduce or eliminate sexual violence?

Give examples that support your thoughts.

**Individual:** This basic level identifies biological and personal history risk factors that may increase the likelihood of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence or the individual has biological and personal history protective factors that allow for healthy growth and development. Some of these factors may include age, education, economic status, substance abuse, and a history of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.

As you think about individuals, what existing risk factors do you think contribute to sexual violence?

Give examples that support your thoughts.

What existing protective factors do you think help to prevent sexual violence?

Give examples that support your thoughts?.

In regard to individual level factors as described above, what strategies could be developed to reduce or eliminate sexual violence?,

Give examples that support your thoughts?

**Additional thoughts and ideas:**

As you think about the issue of sexual violence prevention, what additional thoughts do you have?

## **Community Resources:**

Are you aware of current community resources available or groups working on sexual violence prevention?

What services are available in your community to care for victims of sexual violence?

Does your community have a current sexual violence primary prevention plan?

Does your community have a current plan to care for victims of sexual violence?

Are there gaps in services?

What is needed to eliminate gaps in services?

Who keeps the data reports on sexual violence in your community/county?

To whom is the data reported at state and national level?

Is the data shared with stakeholders locally for planning purposes?

Among data keepers, such as various law enforcement agencies and/or judicial entities is there consistent reporting standards, terminology,?

## Examples

What task forces/programs/initiatives are in your community/county that target sexual violence issues?

1. Is there any sexual violence primary prevention promotion within media?

## Examples

2. Is there educational programming within schools,

## Examples

3. Educational programming within Faith Community,

## Examples

4. What kinds of training and education are available within the business sector for eliminating sexual harassment within the workplace

## Examples

5. Do youth serving organizations provide background checks on staff and volunteers?

## Examples

6. Are there any organizations providing educational training for staff, volunteers and community members in regards to identifying victims of sexual violence?

## Examples

7. Does your medical community and law enforcement cooperate with treatment and investigation of sexual assault victims?



### Examples

8. What is the record of prosecution of sexual violence perpetrators in your county?

What are your thoughts in regards to this information?

9. Are you able to identify local or state policy needs that could be developed to prevent sexual violence?

What policies could be developed?